



# COLONIAL FOX THEATRE FOUNDATION

## *Green Room Newsletter*

Winter 2011 - Volume 5, Issue 1

### SECURING THE ENVELOPE

We realize how eager everyone is to SEE something happening. Removing asbestos, dewatering basements, repairing failing concrete beams – that’s just NOT ROMANTIC! And worse – it’s downright invisible to the public. Still, here we are up to our eyeballs in the most important part of this restoration – securing the envelope.

The flexibility of the National Parks Service (NPS) will allow our 2010 Heritage Trust Fund grant money to be a partial match for the Save America’s Treasures fund. What a shot in the arm that will be to this project. As soon as we get the go-ahead from the NPS we will start repairing the north

exterior wall and removing the asbestos inside the building. Once the asbestos is gone we’ll get started with the basement dewatering and structural repair.

Thanks to the tenacity of our Construction Oversight Team (Roger Buck, Roger Heckert, Mike Joyce, and Tim McNally) the east basement dewatering plan has been revised so we won’t lose the historic concrete floor tiles. Plus, we are exploring a reinforcement system for the failing concrete columns and beams that will allow us to replicate the look and feel of the original ceiling in that old pool hall and barber shop space



*Fifty years of dampness has caused failing plaster and concrete throughout the basement.*

rather than cobble it up with a lot of bulky steel. Soon, you will see Derek Heikes Construction repairing and sealing the cracks in the north wall. Of course, that’ll mean we’ll need to repaint our Friday Flix screen. Any volunteers?

*Looking for Love* —

### *Be Our 2011 Valentine!*

Instead of chocolate, send the Grand Theatre a \$100 matching gift. She will double your money. Every dollar you send us will be matched one-to-one by the Save America’s Treasures fund.

- Headliner** ..... \$25,000 +
- Leading Roles**..... \$5,000 - \$24,999
- Encore** ..... \$1000 - \$4,999
- Standing Ovation** ..... \$500 - \$999
- Center Stage** ..... \$250 - \$499
- Red Carpet**..... \$100 - \$250

We know many people budget for end-of-year gifts. Let us know of your gift intentions now and we will be able to acknowledge you in our publications throughout the year. We love to brag!

Send your tax deductible gift to P.O. Box 33, Pittsburg, KS 66762 - or contribute through PayPal on our website — [www.colonialfox.org](http://www.colonialfox.org).

### **Who Ya Gonna Call? Jasper Haunts!**

Did you ever get the feeling that you were being watched? You hear a strange sound and then a chill runs down your spine. Often in the darkest places, we discover that the things going bump in the night are hard to explain.

When Jasper Haunts Paranormal team leader, Nick Corey, approached us in October about investigating the Colonial Fox Theatre we thought, “What a great Halloween tour!” We were not disappointed.

Tour attendees were able to peer through night vision cameras and read monitors that seemed to translate energy into spoken words.

**HAUNTS** continued on pg 3

# Foolery at the Fox

Judging from our memory bank, the Colonial Fox was host to her share of tomfoolery. In the 1970s, a guy named Russ attended a movie here with friends. Some hooligans in the balcony dumped a whole box of buttered popcorn on poor Russ's head. Russ jumped up so fast to confront the culprits that he fell flat on his face!

Although Russ must've been embarrassed, at least his friends stuck around. Another guy was not so fortunate. A woman writes about a blind date that she reluctantly agreed to accept and then realized her first instinct was correct. She excused herself to the ladies room and ditched the poor guy in the middle of the movie! And that's not the only ditching that went on at the Colonial Fox. One story tells how a girl and her friends got around their parents'



enforcement of the "skirts only" dress code in the 1950s. They rolled their pant legs up under their skirts and ditched the skirts when they got to the theatre! She claims their parents were never aware of the deception.

These young ladies may have gotten away Scott free, but another woman writes about some mischief that almost got her busted. She and her friends would sneak drinks into the theatre on Saturday nights. Once, she dropped a bottle cap during a quiet moment in the movie and cringed as the cap loudly clinked all the way down to the front of stage.

What about you? Share your memories with us! We are always looking for a peak into the history of our theatre!



# Friday Flix 2011

May 20

**The Sting**

Wells Fargo Advisors

June 17

**Stagecoach**

Names and Numbers

July 15

**The Princess Bride**

Lori Ann Spachek - State Farm Insurance

Aug 19

**The Rocky Horror Picture Show**

Accent Dental

Sep 16

**Toy Story**

MPIX

Oct 21

**Beetlejuice**

Sponsorship Available

Nov 11\*

**Polar Express**

M & I Bank

\*date may vary

# Paying It Forward

Every summer through autumn the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation presents our very popular Friday Flix Festival in Pittsburg's Broadway District. These free community events are sponsored by local businesses who enjoy a good movie and who support the revitalization efforts of the Foundation. Marquee Sponsors choose a movie and month and the Colonial Fox announces their company name in giant letters on the Fox marquee.

*The Polar Express* has been our traditional season closer and last year Lori Ann Spachek, State Farm Insurance, chose *The Polar Express* because it is her son's favorite movie. However, she and her husband Jeff have been avid supporters ever since their initial 2007 Colonial Fox tour impressed and excited their children.

Lori Ann believes in giving back to the community and says that as a successful business person she thinks a



little like a Girl Scout. "Leave a place in better condition than you found it." She realizes that when people drive by the theatre, they see more than just her name "in lights" on the marquee. It's a positive message letting the community know she and her business pay it forward by giving back. That's something folks take note of. She hopes it motivates them to sustain and preserve their community and also support local businesses. According to Lori Ann, "You can't just want something great to happen within a community, you've got to make it happen."

We couldn't agree more. When you support the Colonial Fox Theatre project with your tax deductible gifts, we are one step closer to our vision of the theatre's role as a vibrant downtown attraction and an anchor for economic development. A great community deserves a great downtown!





## Congratulations to CFTF!

The Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation was chosen as PSU Career Services' October 2010 Employer of the Month. The Employer of the Month honorees are selected based on the following criteria set forth by the staff of the Career Services office:

- Demonstrate a strong involvement with Pittsburg State Office of Career Services regarding the off-campus work study program
- Focus efforts on going above and beyond its organizational duty while serving the community of Pittsburg or surrounding communities
- Exhibit a strong interest in interviewing and hiring Pittsburg State University current students and alumni

How does the Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation match those criteria, you ask? Thanks to the Kansas Career Work Study program, we were able

to add three PSU students to our ranks as part-time interns. The Work Study program benefits everyone involved. The Colonial Fox receives state funds to reimburse 50 percent of the wages they pay employees; the interns receive on-the-job experience and training in their major area of



left to right: Sarah Jensen, Andrew Molgren, and Stephanie Powers

emphasis, and PSU builds stronger community ties by partnering with a local non-profit organization.

We are pleased to introduce to you our three

outstanding interns:

*Sarah Jensen*, a senior Commercial Graphics major, is our Public Relation Coordinator.

*Stephanie Powers*, a freshman Commercial Graphics major, is our Administrative Assistant.

*Andrew Molgren*, a senior in Construction Management, is our Construction Field Representative.

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Many of them, aspiring ghost hunters themselves, brought their own equipment and recorded accounts of paranormal phenomena. Several photos captured what seasoned paranormal investigators identify as spirit orbs and flying energy bursts.

One of the favorite places of the Jasper Haunts team was the basement. When Nick and his crew found their new video camera batteries draining rapidly, he gleamed. "They love messing with our equipment. "We always have extra batteries because we know they like to manipulate and draw energy off our devices."

You can view the Paranormal Tour pictures on our Facebook page. Be sure to LIKE Colonial Fox Theatre Foundation on Facebook if you haven't already!



Nick Corey and Tony Ferguson photograph spirit orbs, while LaStacia Ross records apparitions in the background.



## 2011 SUSTAINING MEMBERS



### LEADING ROLES

**\$25,000 up**

Dick & Faith Coleman Family Foundation  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Richard & Nancy Miller Family Foundation



### HEADLINERS

**\$5,000 - \$24,999**

Bess Spiva Timmons Family Foundation



### ENCORE

**\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Gene & Vonnie Corsini  
Greg and Dr. Angela Shaw  
Tim & Louise Spears



### STANDING OVATION

**\$500 - \$999**

Accent Dental, LLC  
Holiday Inn Express  
Lamplighter Inn  
M & I Bank  
MPIX  
Names and Numbers  
State Farm - Lori Ann Spachek  
The Corner Bistro  
Wells Fargo Advisors - Rick Martin



### CENTER STAGE

**\$250 - \$499**

Mitch & Diane Bicknell  
John & Carol Casterman  
Emerging Solutions Now, LLC  
Rod Dutton  
Betsy Gordon  
J.D. Wilbert CPA  
Rapid Refill Inc.

### RED CARPET

**\$100 - \$249**

Aaron and Chloe Besperat  
Vance Kelley



# *Theatre Vocabulary*

## **Grand Curtain**

*by Olive Sullivan*

The magic of theatre is never as apparent as when the hush falls as the house lights dim, the audience settles, and the grand curtain opens, revealing the stage set behind. Also known as the "Grand Drape," "House Curtain," or simply the "Grand," this curtain closes just upstage of the proscenium arch, and has the utilitarian function of hiding the stage from the audience's view before and after the production and during scene changes and intermissions. But as part of the drama itself, the curtain is often very ornate, made of heavy, colorful light-absorbing velour and draped with gold braid and tassels. In smaller theatres, the curtain opens horizontally, like living room drapes, but in grander venues, it is drawn up into the area above the stage in what is known as a guillotine reveal, after that most theatrical of execution devices.

